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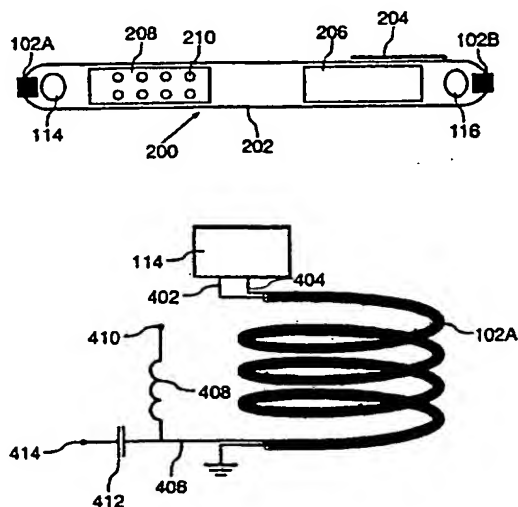
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(54) Title: ELONGATE PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: A personal communications apparatus comprises an elongate body (202) incorporating an antenna diversity arrangement in which first and second antennas (102A, 102B) are located at opposite ends of the body. In one embodiment a microphone (114) is located at the tip of one antenna (102A) and a loudspeaker (116) at the tip of the other antenna (102B). The microphone (114) and loudspeaker (116) act as top loads to their respective antennas, thereby enabling the use of shorter antennas. The antennas (102A, 102B) may be formed from coaxial cable, enabling them to provide electrical connections between the microphone (114) or loudspeaker (116) and transceiver circuitry in the body of the apparatus. By arranging for the microphone (114) and loudspeaker (116) to have low impedances at radio frequencies, the coaxial cable acts as an inductive stub and enables the antennas (102A, 102B) to be further shortened.

DESCRIPTION

ELONGATE PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS APPARATUS

5 Technical Field

The present invention relates to an elongate personal communications apparatus, such as a pen-shaped wireless telephone, having an antenna diversity arrangement.

Background Art

10 Progress in miniaturization of electronic components has enabled the production of a variety of compact communications devices. One example of such a device is a pen-shaped wireless telephone, such as that disclosed in US-A-4,969,180. A major concern in the design of such an apparatus is to provide an effective antenna arrangement which provides good performance in
15 the environments where the apparatus is typically used.

Disclosure of Invention

An object of the present invention is to provide an improved antenna arrangement for an elongate personal communications apparatus.

20 According to the present invention there is provided a personal communications apparatus comprising an elongate body having transceiver circuitry disposed within it, characterised in that the apparatus further comprises first and second spatially separated antennas located at opposite ends of the body, and in that the transceiver circuitry includes a diversity unit coupled to the first and second antennas.

25 Further advantages are obtained if a microphone is mounted on the first antenna and a loudspeaker on the second antenna, the antennas providing electrical connectivity between the microphone and loudspeaker and the transceiver circuitry. This arrangement facilitates obtaining optimum distance between the microphone and loudspeaker. Also, if the electrical effects of the
30 microphone and loudspeaker are taken into account when the antennas are designed a more compact form is possible.

Brief Description of Drawings

Embodiments of the present invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a block schematic diagram of a personal communications apparatus;

5 Figure 2 is a view of a personal communications apparatus made in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 3 is a graph showing how the auto-correlation function for the magnitude of the electric field at two points, $|\rho|^2$, varies with separation in wavelengths, x/λ of the points; and

10 Figure 4 is a diagram of a helical antenna having an integrated microphone;

In the drawings the same reference numerals have been used to indicate corresponding features.

Modes for Carrying Out the Invention

15 A block schematic diagram of a personal communications apparatus 100 having an antenna diversity arrangement is shown in Figure 1. This particular example is based on a GSM (Global System for Mobile communications) cellular telephone, but similar principles apply to other cellular telephony standards and to other personal communications apparatus,
20 for example two-way radio.

Consider first the receiver part of the circuitry operating on a voice telephone call. Two spatially-separated antennas 102A, 102B receive signals from a remote base station, which signals are processed by a diversity unit 104 to generate a single radio frequency (RF) signal. In its simplest form the
25 unit 104 selects the strongest of the two signals, but other combining methods are well known and may be used instead. The RF signal then passes into a RF transceiver block 108, which down-converts the RF signal to a lower intermediate frequency (IF).

The IF signals pass to an intermediate frequency block (IF) 110 which
30 down-converts the IF signal to a baseband signal. This signal then passes to a baseband processing block (BB) 112. This block performs a variety of tasks,

including speech decoding, channel decoding and deinterleaving. Received audio signals are converted back to analogue signals for reproduction on a loudspeaker 116 or other suitable output device.

Now consider the transmission side of the circuitry. Voice signals are received by a microphone 114, or other suitable input device, and passed to the baseband processing block 112, where they are converted to digital form. The baseband processing block 112 then encodes the speech and performs channel coding and interleaving to reduce the received bit error rate. The resultant signal for transmission is modulated and passed to the IF block 110. Here the baseband signals are transposed up to an IF frequency.

The IF signal is passed to the RF transceiver block 108 where it is mixed up to the RF transmission frequency and amplified to the required power by a power amplifier (PA) 106. It is then passed to the diversity unit 104 for transmission by one or both of the antennas 102.

One compact form of a personal communications apparatus comprises an elongate body, for example pen-shaped. Figure 2 is a view of an embodiment of such an apparatus which could be a wireless telephone. The apparatus 200 comprises an elongate body 202 having a clip 204 which may be used to attach the apparatus 200 to a jacket or other clothing when not in use. First and second antennas 102A, 102B are mounted at opposite ends of the body. A preferred embodiment uses helical antennas 102. The majority of the circuitry for the personal communications apparatus is disposed inside the body 202, including a diversity unit 104 coupled to the first and second antennas 102. The microphone 114 and loudspeaker 116 are located behind openings in the body 202. Also provided is a display 206 and means 208 for controlling the apparatus 200, for example a plurality of operating buttons 210.

A condition for obtaining an effective improvement in performance from a diversity arrangement having two antennas is that the field strengths received by each antenna are substantially uncorrelated. Hence, if multipath interference causes the first antenna 102A to be in a null the second antenna 102B is likely to be able to receive a good signal, and vice-versa.

The spatial correlation of fields in a mobile radio environment was studied in *A Statistical Theory of Mobile-Radio Reception*, R.J. Clarke, Bell Systems Technical Journal, Volume 47 No. 6, pages 957 to 1000. In normal use, with the apparatus 200 held substantially vertically, the first and second helical antennas 102A, 102B receive the vertical component of the electric field. Figure 3 is a graph showing the variation of $|\rho|^2$, the auto-correlation of the magnitude of the electric field, with the separation x of the two antennas, measured in wavelengths (λ).

It is generally considered that good diversity operation is achieved when $|\rho|^2$ is below 0.5. From Figure 3 it can be seen that this requires the antennas to be separated by at least 0.2λ . This corresponds to a separation of 6.5cm at the GSM centre frequency of 925MHz and 3.0cm at the UMTS (Universal Mobile Telecommunication System) centre frequency of approximately 2050MHz. Such a separation can easily be achieved in a pen-shaped or other elongate apparatus such as that shown in Figure 2, ensuring that the correlation between first and second antennas 102A, 102B is low and the diversity performance is good. Hence, such an apparatus is particularly suitable for a diversity arrangement such as that shown. Further, an elongate apparatus 200 is likely to be held in such a way that the antennas will not be significantly blocked by a user's hand. This ensures that the mean gains of the first and second antennas 102A, 102B are similar, which is also a requirement for good diversity performance.

A convenient modification of the elongate apparatus 200 shown in Figure 2 is to mount the microphone 114 on the opposite end of the first antenna 102A to that connected to the transceiver circuitry, as illustrated in Figure 4. The helical antenna 102A may be formed of coaxial cable, with a connecting wire 402 connecting the microphone 114 to one end of the cable's inner conductor and the other end of the inner conductor being connected to ground. A second connecting wire 404 from the microphone 114 is connected to the cable at the top of the antenna 102A. Alternatively, the antenna 102A

may be formed from hollow wire through which the first connecting wire is passed to connect the microphone to ground.

At the bottom of the antenna 102A the audio signals from the microphone 114 and the RF signals received or transmitted by the antenna 102A can easily be separated. A shared connection 406 is made to the outer of the coaxial cable (or the hollow antenna wire) at the bottom of the antenna. From this connection audio signals from the microphone are coupled through a low pass filter (shown here as a single inductor 408) to an audio output 410, while the RF signals are coupled through a high pass filter (shown as a single capacitor 412) to an RF output 412.

Other possibilities could be considered for the connections. For example, two connecting wires from the microphone 114 could pass through a hollow antenna wire, eliminating the need for a filter. Alternatively, the connecting wires could be placed through the centre of the helical antenna 102A, enabling the antenna to be formed of solid wire.

A particular advantage of locating the microphone 114 at the top of the antenna 102A is that the microphone package provides top loading (increasing the radiation resistance and reducing the capacitive reactance), thereby enabling use of a shorter antenna 102A. In an embodiment where the antenna 102A is formed from coaxial cable, if the microphone 114 also presents a low RF impedance it will provide a short circuit at the top of the helical antenna. The transmission line inside the helix is then a short circuit stub, which provides an inductive impedance thereby reducing the capacitive reactance of the antenna 102A and enabling the use of a still shorter antenna 102A.

Alternatively, or in combination with the above modification, the loudspeaker 116 can also be mounted at the opposite end of the second antenna 102B to that connected to the transceiver circuitry. The same considerations apply to this modification as to the combination of the microphone 114 and first antenna 102A.

The embodiments of the present invention described above use a helical antenna. However, other types of physically-shortened electric antennas could be used instead. Such antennas are monopole or dipole-like

antennas that are physically smaller than their electrical length, and receive predominantly the electric field. An example of such an alternative antenna is a meander-line antenna.

From reading the present disclosure, other modifications will be
5 apparent to persons skilled in the art. Such modifications may involve other features which are already known in the design, manufacture and use of personal communications apparatus and component parts thereof, and which may be used instead of or in addition to features already described herein. Although claims have been formulated in this application to particular
10 combinations of features, it should be understood that the scope of the disclosure of the present application also includes any novel feature or any novel combination of features disclosed herein either explicitly or implicitly or any generalisation thereof, whether or not it relates to the same invention as presently claimed in any claim and whether or not it mitigates any or all of the
15 same technical problems as does the present invention. The applicants hereby give notice that new claims may be formulated to such features and/or combinations of features during the prosecution of the present application or of any further application derived therefrom.

In the present specification and claims the word "a" or "an" preceding an
20 element does not exclude the presence of a plurality of such elements. Further, the word "comprising" does not exclude the presence of other elements or steps than those listed.

Industrial Applicability

The present invention is applicable to apparatus for use in a range of
25 radio communication systems, for example GSM.

CLAIMS

1. A personal communications apparatus comprising an elongate body having transceiver circuitry disposed within it, characterised in that the apparatus further comprises first and second spatially separated antennas located at opposite ends of the body, and in that the transceiver circuitry includes a diversity unit coupled to the first and second antennas.
2. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that each antenna is a physically-shortened electric antenna.
3. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that each antenna is a helical antenna.
4. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2 or 3, further comprising a microphone, characterised in that the first antenna comprises first and second ends, the first end being coupled to the transceiver circuitry and the second end being coupled to the microphone.
5. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2 or 3, further comprising a loudspeaker, characterised in that the second antenna comprises first and second ends, the first end being coupled to the transceiver circuitry and the second end being coupled to the loudspeaker.
6. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2 or 3, further comprising a microphone and a loudspeaker, characterised in that the first antenna comprises first and second ends, the first end being coupled to the transceiver circuitry and the second end being coupled to the microphone, and in that the second antenna comprises first and second ends, the first end being coupled to the transceiver circuitry and the second end being coupled to the loudspeaker.

7. An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, 5 or 6, characterised in that at least one of the first and second antennas is formed from coaxial cable and in that the coaxial cable provides electrical connections between the microphone or loudspeaker and the transceiver circuitry.

5 8. An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, 5 or 6, characterised in that at least one of the first and second antennas is formed from hollow wire and in that a first electrical connection between the microphone or loudspeaker and the transceiver circuitry is provided by the hollow wire and in that a second
10 electrical connection between the microphone or loudspeaker and the transceiver circuitry is provided by a conductor enclosed by the hollow wire.

9. An apparatus as claimed in claim 8, characterised in that the microphone or loudspeaker has a low impedance at radio frequencies, thereby
15 enabling the coaxial cable forming the respective antenna to act as an inductive stub.

10. An apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 9, characterised in that the microphone or loudspeaker provides top loading to
20 the respective antenna.

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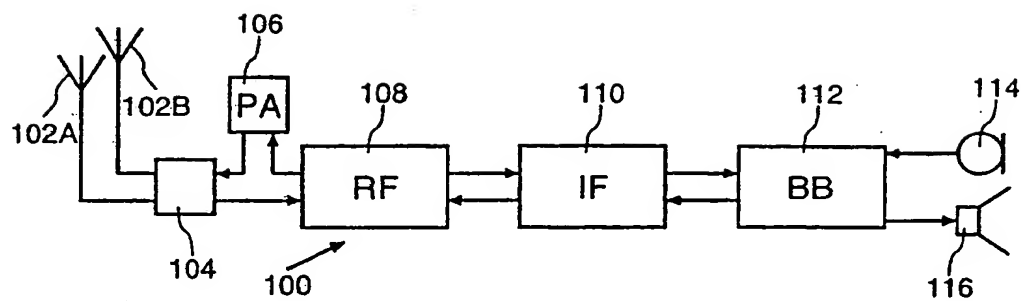


FIG. 1

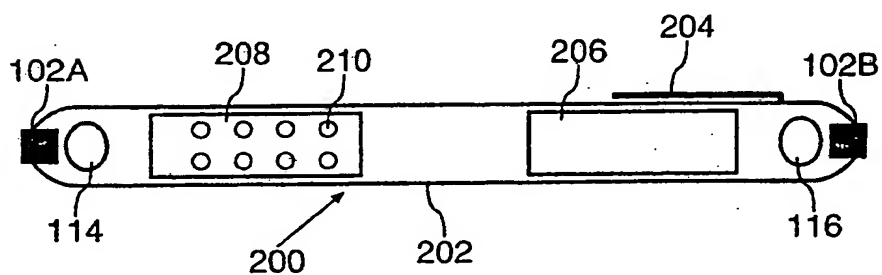


FIG. 2

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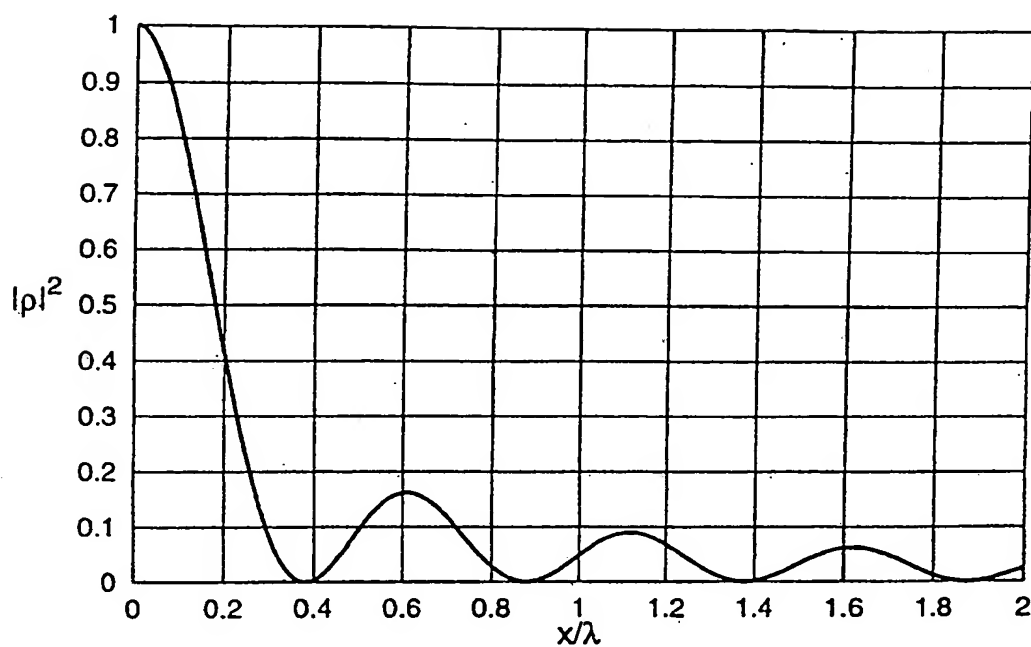


FIG. 3

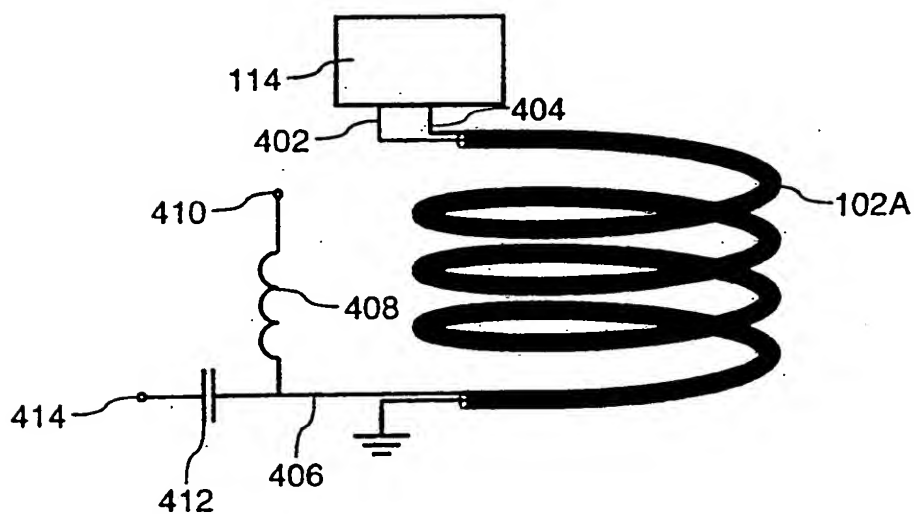


FIG. 4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internat. Application No.

PCT/EP 00/07682

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 H01Q1/24 H04B1/38 H04M1/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H01Q H04B H04M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

PAJ, EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 905 467 A (NARAYANASWAMY ET AL.) 18 May 1999 (1999-05-18) column 1, line 59 -column 2, line 5 column 2, line 31 -column 3, line 44; figures 2,4A-D	1-3
X	EP 0 752 735 A (DETEMOBIL DEUTSCHE TELEKOM MOBILNET) 8 January 1997 (1997-01-08) column 1, line 33 - line 44 column 2, line 32 -column 3, line 13; figures 1-3	1,2
X	WO 97 23016 A (GEOTEK COMMUNICATION) 26 June 1997 (1997-06-26) abstract page 2 -page 3; figures 1-5	1,2
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 00/07682

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

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